

ANNOUNCEMENT

Honourable Members

Earlier today, once again, the Hon Second Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (Mr Assirvaden) was asked to withdraw from the House after he challenged the authority bestowed upon me as presiding officer with regard to supplementary questions, both in terms of relevancy and number.

Although Standing Order 79 provides that I am not bound to give any reason in support of any of my decisions, I am making an exception to explain what happened earlier, from a procedural point of view since it appears that some Honourable Members persist in ignoring the Standing Orders, Rules and other established practice governing this House.

The conduct of the Chair is, thereafter, commented upon and/or misrepresented outside the House in a manner which is detrimental to this august Assembly.

While the Official Report and the video footage testify to what happens during proceedings, it may, however, not always be clear to viewers as to whether same are procedurally in order or not.

In the light of the aforesaid, allow me to refer to the procedure governing “Supplementary Questions”, namely, Standing Order 26 which provides as follows –

- (1) Supplementary questions may only be put for the further elucidation of the information requested, and shall be subject to the ruling of the Speaker, both as to relevance and number.***
- (2) A supplementary question must not introduce matter not included in the original Question.***

It follows from the above that, once the Chair is satisfied that a question has been sufficiently canvassed, the question of further supplementary questions does not arise.

Moreover, as I intimated in a precedent announcement, as Speaker, whose duty it is to preside the sittings of the Assembly, I only exercise such authority with which I am endowed.

It is now clear to one and all, I hope, that earlier today, once again, Hon Assirvaden ignored the provisions of the Standing Orders and persisted in the said direction in spite of my guidance and in the circumstances, in order to allow the House proceed with its business, Hon Assirvaden had to be ordered to withdraw from the House.

I thank you for your attention.
